

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00
ICA-11 OES-07 OMB-01 SS-15 SP-02 H-01 PA-01
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-----021925 050359Z /17

R 042346Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0042

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 07416

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM FOR DRUG POLICY
OFFICE (DOGOLOFF)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS ERADICATION PROGRAM

REF: STATE 112113

1. EMBASSY CONCURS THAT MEETING OF U.S. AND MEXICAN EXPERTS ON HERBICIDES WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO BOTH SIDES AND AGREES THAT MEANINGFUL CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE INITIATED ASAP.
2. GOM HAS CONSIDERABLE EXPERTISE IN THE USE OF VARIOUS HERBICIDES AND IS CAPABLE OF EVALUATING IMPACT OF HERBICIDES BASED ON EXTENSIVE FIELD STUDIES. ITS MAJOR AREA OF WEAKNESS, WE BELIEVE, IS THE DESIGN AND EXECUTION OF HERBICIDE EVALUATIONS IN CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT.
3. PREVIOUS VISITS OF USG HERBICIDE EXPERTS TO MEXICO HAVE BEEN SHORT ON SUBSTANCE AND LACKED ANY MEANINGFUL FOLLOW-THROUGH. DURING A VISIT IN AUGUST, 1976, FOR EXAMPLE, USG EXPERT AGREED TO RETURN IN OCTOBER WITH
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CONTROLLED-RATE APPLICATION APPARATUS TO SHOW MEXICANS HOW TO CONDUCT CONTROLLED EXPERIMENTS. FOR REASONS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR TO EMBASSY, EXPERT RETURNED IN OCTOBER FOR "FURTHER CONSULTATION" BUT WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS NOT RPT NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY TESTING ACTIVITY.

4. WE SUGGEST THAT FIRST LOGICAL STEP IN MEANINGFUL CON-

SULTATIONS WOULD BE VISIT OF MEXICAN HERBICIDE EXPERTS TO THE UNITED STATES, WHERE THEY COULD BRIEF OUR EXPERTS ON STEPS TAKEN THUS FAR IN MEXICO, OBTAIN IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ON HERBICIDES AVAILABLE, AND OBSERVE DESIGN AND EXECUTION OF CONTROLLED EVALUATION TECHNIQUES.

5. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO REQUEST ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES TO SEND TEAM OF GOM HERBICIDE EXPERTS TO WASHINGTON "TO BEGIN AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE USE OF HERBICIDES TO CONTROL NARCOTIC PLANTS". WE WOULD EXPLAIN THAT GOM HAS FAR MORE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN USE OF HERBICIDES FOR THIS PURPOSE AND THAT REASON FOR VISIT IS TO BEGIN A GENUINE TWO-WAY EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL. VISIT TO WASHINGTON, WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF CURRENT HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES, WOULD HELP IDENTIFY ANY PROBLEM AREAS AND COULD BE FOLLOWED BY VISIT TO MEXICO OF USG EXPERTS FULLY PREPARED TO RECOMMEND SPECIFIC, REALISTIC SOLUTIONS. LUCE

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